HOW TO GET INVOLVED ?

You can search for your local infopoint at:

http://europe.pgaconference.org/en/pga/infopoints/existing_infopoints

Or you can write to one of those mailing lists:

1. European Mailing Lists

- pga_europe_process@squat.net: PGA process, organization, conferences and internal discussions
- pga_europe_resistance@squat.net: announcements about actions around europe
- pga-announce@pgaconference.org: to receive main announcements relating to PGA projects and meetings, to be invited to next conference and other bigger events
- pga-i18n@pgaconfrence.org: if you have any translations skills, this is the list you can join and where you can for translation of calls, important mails and documents
- pga-infopoints@pgaconference.org: a list used for various infopoint administrative tasks, for new infopoints who want to be listed, for old infopoints who want to update their survey, and to send the various documents and translations that should be added to the infopoint webpage
- pga-www@pgaconference.org: this is the list of people dealing with this very website

2. Global Communication

- globalaction@lists.riseup.net: for the PGA global process
- convenors@lists.riseup.net: for convenors
- pgawana@lists.riseup.net: for PGA Middle-East

Or you can also visit one of the followng sites:

http://pgaconference.org

http://peoplesglobalaction.org

http://www.agp.org

http://all4all.org

Hello everybody! This is the 3rd issue of the PGA inspired newsletter!

At the PGA-conference in Dijon a need for a non-digital communication-tool was mentioned.

There was an idea to refresh a printed newsletter. We would like to continue the project with this call.

Our aim is to continue using this newsletter as forum of debates, different project, actions and struggles of collectives, related to PGA. The newsletter does not speak in the name of the network, but is inspired by PGA.

Therefore it will continue to be an autonomous project with subjective views, but can only work through the participation of various collectives and single persons in the network.
This project should be an open process and switching workgroups take the responsibility for each issue.

The group, working on the next issue, announces their idea for next issue and sets a deadline for article (both on the pga-process list). After layouting and publishing it's also helpful, if the workgroup cares for skill-sharing with the next group (which means to introduce in the tools, used for the newsletter). The final printing and distribution is like the creation of article in the responsibility of all the collectives and single persons in the network. To make the next newsletter a better instrument of information and perhaps more open to global struggles, please send articles.

humanity tried to demolish disorder and uncertainty, everything was tried to set up as predictable and conditionable and controling the nature was stemming from this idea. Political power, the idea of state, emerged with this concept, converting disorder and uncertainty into order and predictable.
He then stated, efforts to convert disorder into order are useless because as the complexity increases disorder and fragility grows. A way of life, taking the limits of nature into account decreases the effects of disorder and fragility stemming from disorder will be replaced with a more relative balance.

Capitalist society will not be able to prevent ecologic crisis because it builds up a more fragile social system to demolish disorder and uncertainty. In the future the natural support systems of the earth will collapse thus eventually civilization will collapse. People should make preparations this very moment about the issue. An egalitarian social system where there is no state, where society will directly participate in decision making process will be established in this process.

PGA HALLMARKS

1. A very clear rejection of capitalism, imperialism and feudalism; all trade agreements, institutions and governments that promote destructive globalisation.
2. We reject all forms and systems of domination and discrimination including, but not limited to, patriarchy, racism and religious fundamentalism of all creeds. We embrace the full dignity of all human beings.
3. A confrontational attitude, since we do not think that lobbying can have a major impact in such biased and undemocratic organisations, in which transnational capital is the only real policy-maker.
4. A call to direct action and civil disobedience, support for social movements' struggles, advocating forms of resistance which maximize respect for life and oppressed peoples' rights, as well as the construction of local alternatives to global capitalism.
5. An organisational philosophy based on decentralisation and autonomy. PGA is a tool for coordination, not an organization. PGA has no members and does not have and will not have a juridical personnality. Nor organisation or person represents PGA.

Kolektif / Ego had been setting up these meetings at “Institute of History and Society Arts” in Beyoglu/Istanbul for a while and this was the second one. The meeting was held by the member Dilaver Demirağ at 2:00 pm and water crisis was discussed in all aspects.

Demirağ stated that water was not insufficient but only limited, then it became insufficient in the process of civilization. Water was merchandised, it became a product and water crisis emerged afterwards.

He initially stated that there is specific and constant amount of water on earth and then gave some statistics about the amount and share of water on earth. He then cited that these statistics were a proof for the argument “water is not insufficient but only limited” and the reason for water running low is that water resources have been exploited by industrial agriculture methods, industry and metropolian gigantic cities and this is stemming mostly from the fact that water is not anymore something that people respect but something people use only for meeting their needs.

Civilization raised disorder

In the second part of his speech, he denoted the institutions humanity set up in the process of civilization. The first turning point of this process was religious symbolism and rites which came up by burying the dead. The second turning point was magic, as it was an instrument to control nature and making it an object for the needs. Following settlements and agriculture came the nationalization and urbanization process which made water and soil taken into custody cutting their natural course. The basic idea of this was as getting more and more civilized,

kolektif/ego emerged on May 2007 as an anti-authoritarian affinity group whose members came across each other both on terms of common concern and in a somewhat accidental manner.

kolektif/ego works on a consensus-based decision-making process.

kolektif/ego rejects: Capitalism, The state and etatism, Militarism, Nationalism, Territorialism, Racism, Discrimination, All forms of sexism and heterosexism, Gerontocracy, Speciesism, scienticism and “colonization” of nature, Hierarchy, All forms of moralism, authority and domination that hinder people’s self-control and self-determination over their daily lives.

kolektif/ego regards meeting of dissimilarities on a common ground and respects differences. Claims that horizontality, direct democracy, responsibility-taking and direct participation to the decision-making process should be recognized by all radical dissidence against the State and Capitalism. kolektif/ego encourages mutual aid within the group and desires to develop networks of solidarity with other libertarian and anti-authoritarian groups. It stands for the elimination of the sexist codes which persist even within radical dissident political practice. It supports the formation of libertarian social networks that encourage individuals and groups to realize creative practices.

kolektif/ego recognizes the cultural space and everyday life as grounds of struggle and claims to revolutionize them. It embraces disobedient and direct forms of action. It works on the use of forms of cultural expression as a method of political activism and the improvement and generalization of culture-jamming techniques. kolektif/ego, knowing that mockery of their power is what the rulers fear most, adopts in principle laughing histerically (accompanied by 7 pieces of flatus salute) at any official, popular and traditional cultural code, from the chamber pot of the Pope to the mausolea of statesmen.

EVALUATION FROM THE PREPARATIONAL MEETING IN THESSALONIKI 19-21 OCTOBER

The meeting took part in DELTA squat in Thessaloniki on 19th, 20th and 21st October, around 20-25 people were present.

TIMELINE

Friday, 19.10.2007:
1. Short introductions from different individuals and collectives. There were people from Greece, Romania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany, Canada;
2. Evaluation from the PGA inspired infotour - ideas, proposals and so on

Saturday, 20.10.2007:
1. Evaluation of the last conference in France
2. Convenor collective for the next conference, organizational process, way of organizing the next conference and location an dates

Sunday, 21.10.2007:
1. Discussion about the digital tools, especially balkan infoshop site
2. Proposals for common actions in the Balkans
3. Greek meeting
4. Presentation and discussion about the Call for solidarity with squats and autonomous spaces
5. Presentation and discussion about the anti-NATO actions in the beginning of next April (4th and 5th) in Romania
4. Biotechnology meeting during the PGA preparation
5. Evaluation of the preparational meeting in Thessaloniki

IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS, CONCLUSIONS

1. About the next PGA conference: No single collective wanted to take the responsibility of organizing the next PGA meeting, so the idea now is to make small decentralized meetings in different places in Greece on different topics and then one big centralized meeting, but dates, location and topics are still unclear. The next greek meeting after 1 month maybe will decide them;
2. Making a 2nd preparational meeting during the anti-NATO protests in Romania: not surely confirmed;
3. To make balkan infoshop network - a new site (or as part of pgaconference.org) for connecting collectives and activists from the countries from the Balkans and giving the visibility of the local struggles: the mailinglist was created, ideas about the site - already in progress, hopefully it will be ready soon...
4. Also idea about smaller - to be decidedmeeting for the collectives on the Balkans
5. Ideas about common actions on the Balkans:

a. sweatshops in bulgaria, owned by greek capitalists

b. students protest in greece – actions in front of some greekowned banks in bulgaria

c there is a teachers' strike in bulgaria for 5th week for better payment (now 150 euro per month) – protests in other cities on this topic if someone wants - make contact between teachers from greece, who are in common situation and from bulgaria also these in romania, who already protested

d. Greece and Turkey – changing the history book

e. squatting caravans?

f. make contact with bulgarian immigrants that work in greece

g. ways of action can be "exported" from one country to an other – help collectives in local places get stronger

6. Next issue of the PGA inspired newsletter: bulgarian collective "AnarchoResistance" took the responsibility
7. New PGA insired infotour to be made in the winter - spring in post-yugoslavian countries
8. To change the dates of the international squat and autonomous spaces action days, because the anti-Nato protests in Romania are on the same dates.

BALKAN DECENTRALIZED NETWORK

This network is a result of a long process and discussion about digital tools and physical meetings which we, grassroots, autonomous, anti-authoritarian collectives from Balkans and beyond need in order to make our struggles more visible and powerful.

We are activists from Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, Hungary, Greece, Serbia, Slovenia who are involved in local struggles but always with a global aspect. The idea of this network came out from the last PGA inspired infotour, September 2007, when two activists traveled together in seven countries in Balkans and eastern-Europe.

We desire more collectives and people to join this project and make it a useful coordination tool - also with the critics of it - for future common actions, information exchange, call-outs for several issues.

The political goals of this initiative are based on the 5 hallmarks of Peoples Global Action network and it is a clearly inspired project by this network.
We don't accept any kind of formal hierarchy and we struggle against the informal one. We support the clear dignity of human beings as well as the animal liberation.

We call every grassroots movement, anti-authoritarian collective, autonomous space who feel related to this process to join this network as well as to join the further discussion for common activities in balkans and the support and solidarity of the anti-capitalist struggle everywhere!
We call everyone to get involved with a decentralized autonomous network without any representatives or relations with institutional organizations!

We are everywhere!

"MOVE INTO THE LIGHT?: POSTSCRIPT TO A TURBULENT 2007"

By Turbulence

At the beginning of 2007, the Turbulence collective commissioned 14 articles from around the global 'movement of movements', asking authors: "What would it mean to win?" We edited their responses into a newspaper and printed 7,000 copies, most of which were distributed at the mobilisation against the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, in June. A few months later, we want to return to the question of winning.

As we resume our search it's no surprise that we keep coming across the problem of visibility. When we think about winning, our eyes are drawn to things that are highly visible or easy-to-measure, such as institutional or legislative change, the opening of a social centre or an increase in membership. That's where the light is. But we also need to assess victories in the less tangible though just as real realm of possibilities. Winning in this realm may involve increased potential, changes in perception or patterns of behaviour. Yet these seem to exist at the very edge of the luminous zone.

This problem leads into another: our experiences create their own luminosity and consequently their own areas of darkness. When we think about winning we are drawn to movements, people and events that are familiar to us; and we have expectations about how things should turn out if they are to constitute a victory.

So how can we overcome our night-blindness once we move beyond the familiar?...

To read more, go to: http://www.turbulence.org.uk/moveintothelight.html

To download the new Turbulence booklet, "Move into the Light?", as a PDF go to: http://www.turbulence.org.uk/Resources/postscript_1107.pdf

To help distribute the booklet, or to offer a translation, please write to: editors@turbulence.org.uk

A web-banner linking directly to the article can also be downloaded from: http://www.turbulence.org.uk/Resources/banner_234x60.jpg
Copies of the booklet can be ordered via our website, www.turbulence.org.uk

And, as ever, we're keen for comments, criticism and feedback on the text.

The Editors: www.turbulence.org.uk | editors@turbulence.org.uk

Civilization in a crisis

A meeting was held by Kolektif / Ego, by the group member Dilaver Demirağ, taking place at the "Institute of History and Society Arts". Titled "Is it water that is insufficient? Political Ecology of the Water Crisis", it focused on eco-political aspects of global water problems.

Maybe it's not the quality of life, but the security, or insecurity. But then: doesn't the quality - even if it is so temporary and unstable – make a significant difference?
And from the side of the pink collar cleaning woman, maybe somewhere from the Third World, can she really believe, that they are in the same position? Wouldn't she choose the intellectual's precarious life, working 15 hours, 6-7 days just as before, but for a much higher income, and with a much higher level of consumption, though obligatory. If she could be in his position, maybe after a few weeks, half year, she would realize the similarities. Maybe, maybe not: but it doesn't really matter, how things would be theoretically, when reality shouts in that it is not possible, it is so much unlikely (especially when you're not a citizen of the country you're trying to get along) to take a step upstairs in social mobility. And it is not just because of the fact that classes are closing up, maybe more than other times, maybe just as before, but: the step is getting bigger, and the group that is in between is disappearing. (Not only the middle class, but the small-bourgeois too, if there was such a thing ever.)

The fact, that students are so into this topic, makes the precarity movement more comprehensible. I mean as a university student, lot of us work in unskilled jobs, temp student work, though we are heading into the highly educated (creative) class – that is enlarged and devalued by mass education, and closed up by neoliberal reforms such as school fees for everyone. So we have the experience of both sides, maybe. But in the same time we have another kind of perspective, because of the opportunity to get out of one precarious state to another one. And this, the 'other one' is very much connected to the growing proportion of graduated people in (post)modern societies, and the effect of this: the growth of unemployment among professionals. This means that on the one hand it is told that education is a tool for mobility or at least the preservation of the class position (regarding the second- or more generation intellectuals). On the other hand it is not even enough for that, and there comes the ghost of unemployment, after studying for so many years to become an unemployed professional.

So there are different social groups included in the pile of precarious people, and on the other hand those who work on this topic either focus (and so specialize) on one or some of them, either try to deal with precarity itself, that is complex. The movement that wants to take part in organizing a network of so much different social struggles that are still similar in that they fight against/about precarity, has to deal with the problem that people in different social position won't consider each other that similar, even if they have common problems paralelly. Even if they fight against these problems, they were socialized differently, hence they have different strategies (that could be combined). The question is, if there is a network, and the people involved in it really feel what they have in common, is it loose enough to let them act differently, but strong enough not to fall apart, when the authorities offer something better for some social groups (probably the educated ones, or the ones that were more organized and negotiated...) and let others on the ground?

Texts to include: some from the Precarious reader from metamute.org and the new greenpepper issue, something about euromayday, about the multitude, question-mark statement – proposal for a kind of methodology: agitation only by asking, not by telling the people what they should think, even without making it clear what we think

http://europe.pgaconference.org/en/greece_08/topics/call_for_a_working_group_to_write_a_political_reader_on_precarity

POLICE RAID IN ACTIVISTS HOUSES IN NEW ZEALAND

On 15th October, 300+ Police - in many cases armed - raided houses

Throughout Aotearoa (New Zealand) making 17 arrests. The arrestees are all activists in The Tino Rangatiratanga (Maori self-determination), peace and environmental movements. They have initially been charged with with various offenses relating to alleged past possession of various firearms and ammunition; however police are considering laying charges under the 2002 Suppression of Terrorism Act.

These aggressive raids are an attempt to criminalise dissent and smear critics of government and corporate policies with the "terrorist" label.

You can find more information on www.scoop.co.nz *or* www.indymedia.org.nz.

Most of those arrested have been denied bail and remain in prison. As well as legal fees, they need help paying for their expenses while in jail, such as: phone cards and toiletries; paying any bills they are now unable to meet as in most cases their income has been or soon will be stopped; and petrol costs to allow family and friends to visit them.

Please donate whatever you can. You can send money via Paypal to prisonersupport@peacewellington.org or use the following link:
https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_xclick&business=prisonersupport%40peacewellington%2eorg&currency_code=NZD&lc=NZ&bn=PP%2dDonationsBF&charset=UTF%2d8
(You don't need to have a Paypal account, you can pay directly with your credit card.)

If you are currently in Aotearoa and want to donate, we ask you to make a direct bank account deposit. Obviously we greatly appreciate all donations however they are received, but Paypal charges a fee on most transactions, while bank account deposits mean that all your money can be used to help the prisoners.

The bank account details are:
Account Name: Peace Action Wellington
Account Number: 02-0536-0458570-00
Particulars/Code/Reference: LEGAL DEF

All the prisoners have our support, but donations will be prioritised to the four arrested in Wellington simply because there are other groups looking after prisoners in their local areas.

If you are not able to donate, here are some ways you can help from overseas:
- Forward this email as widely as you can
- Get the word out - educate yourself on what has been happening and tell your friends, co-workers, family
- Write letters of support - messages emailed to lettersforprisoners@riseup.net will be printed and sent to those in prison. Obviously do not write anything that may negatively impact on the prisoners, yourself or someone else.

- If you speak another language, translate this email - and then pass it on.

- Post this information on your website, blog or independent media site. See http://www.peacewellington.org/donate.txt for the HTML for a paypal button.
- Write letters of protest to your local New Zealand embassy or high commission (contact details at http://www.nzembassy.com/)
- Organise a solidarity demonstration - and send us pictures!
- KEEP UP THE FIGHT. The arrestees were all dedicated to making the world a better place, one without war, oppression or the destruction of the environment. Police violence, accusations of terrorism and repressive legislation are all used to intimidate us and protect the status-quo – but it is only by standing up in the face of all that that we can really make a difference. Kia Kaha (stay strong).

Yours in solidarity: Anna prisonersupport@peacewellington.org

WE GET MORE TIME - 300 ON THE STREETS OF HELSINKI FOR SQUAT ELIMδKI

Thursday was a day of victory for the squatting scene in Helsinki. 300 people defied the really shitty weather and gathered to demonstrate at the Youth Department of the city to show their support to the social centre Elimδki, aka squat E15. The Youth Department of Helsinki had gathered to decide on whether to rent the squatted house on Elimδenkatu (Elimδkistreet) to be used as a social centre for the youth of the city. This was the second time officials from the city came together to decide on the issue. After postponing the decision at their first meeting a month ago the board now unanimously decided to investigate the real condition of our house. The decision can be understood as an official recognition of the importance to have an autonomous space in Helsinki.

The house on Elimδenkatu has been deemed in very bad condition by the officials of the city. The statement has been supported by no real measurements or data whatsoever and on the contrary been proved wrong by the investigations we ourselves have made. This fact got recognized by the board of the Youth Department in their decision to appoint a private construction firm to investigate further on the matter.

The solution that the squatters and some people from the city have been working on is to have the house rented by the Youth Department to be used as an autonomous social centre. The house has been in this use since it was squatted in the beginning of August. After a long period of bad events on
our issue the outlook is now better. But it would be overtly optimistic to say that if the investigations on our house turn out to be good the city would support us. During the last months the politicians and officials of the city have been changing their statements on whether to legalise the house or not on a daily basis. The Finnish media does not follow the game in the side-scenes where politicians and officials are manipulating each other to topple our project. We are far from securing the only social centre in Helsinki but much closer than before.

Call for a working group to write a political reader on precarity (for the next PGA conference)

Our intention is to drop in questions, and generate a debate, rather than a clear opinion about what is precarity and why are we using this expression.

Can precarity be a unification of different kind of workers that are so far away on the social ladder from each other by mainstream measures? (Quality of living measured by income, goods, etc.) Btw., should precarity be a unification at all?

Manuel Castells says, in The Rise of Network Society, that flexible work is spreading in two big categories: among the unskilled workers, and among highly educated people. Immigrants, women, children, handicapped people, ethnics, and the intellectuals: painters, writers, musicians, translators, engineers, managers, also bureaucrats, like auditors, lawyers, economists etc. The distance between these two big groups is getting bigger, and mobility is becoming almost impossible (of course on the way up: the way down is always easier). The distance manifests itself not just in the (irregular) income, but also in what is expected from the pink collar or the creative worker in their consumption, lifestyle etc.

Quotation from the wikipedia the free encyclopedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precarity):
"More problematic is the fact that precarity seems to conflate two categories of workers that are at opposite ends of labor market segmentation in postindustrial economies: pink collars working in retail and low-end services (cleaners, janitors, etc.) under constrictive but standardized employment norms; and young talent temping for cheap in the information economy of big cities around the world: the creative class of strongly individualistic workers illustrated by managerial literature."

It is questionable, if precarity conflates these two groups, or we are conflating them. And also, it's not clear if they are combined or confused. And even if precarity is a good tool to describe postindustrial work conditions, are the pink collars and the creative class combined in it *by* themselves or are we doing it *for* them? If we, as activists, mostly students and young intellectuals, living a life that feels precarious, invent an expression and a method for this feeling, and try to include other classes, will other intellectuals – forced into eventual orders, temp jobs, outsourced – feel or think they are almost in the same position as the person that cleans their flat or cooks them the fast food on the ground floor of the business center they are working in – because they don't have any free time for such thing, because they are working 12-15 hours a day, 6-7 days a week, and even if they can drink a beer, they drink it as a job, with the boss, the partners etc. So, getting back to the main question: recognizing that the absolute income is maybe bigger, but the expected volume of consumption is so much higher, their quality of life is not that different, as it seems at first sight. Is it like that? Are they realizing it? And then are they changing their everyday habits? Including the way they behave with the pink collars around them, and bosses, partners etc. who maybe also precarious.
Can you really believe that you have the same quality of life, if you're living in a huge loft in the center, wearing expensive suits everyday and doing only expensive sports, or if you're living in the outskirts, in an area that is becoming and immigrant ghetto, and you share a two-room flat with 8 other people, including children who are also working, but even if not, they don't have the chance to think about any kind of school, especially not high school or university.

ONE STRUGGLE - ONE FIGHT

Berlin, end of December 2007: the situation in the city is continously getting worse. While until a few years ago this city stood as one of the fortresses of the squatter's movement, nowadays we are reduced to the few remaining autonomous spaces. House projects, trailer-parks, autonomous youthclubs and so on are slowly disappearing – and sometimes without the slightest sound of resistance – under the pressure of State, capitalist relationships and its active servants.

The process known as gentrification keeps on changing entire neighbourhoods, fast and pitiless, in order to make place for yuppies, investors, alternative artists and generally all the people who feel themselves to be at home in mainstream society.

It seems as if, very soon, there will be no place left for self-organized, uncommercial and anti-authoritarian spaces. But despite this, there are still signs of active resistance all around. The riots in Copenhagen last December, and the struggle for Ungdomshuset, brought forward - explosively and uncompromisingly - the somehow sleepy movement for autonomous spaces. In Germany, as on an international level, this movement is again on the offensive. As well as the fact that a lot of supporters travelled from Germany to Copenhagen to fight the battle there, solidarity actions happened in more than 30 german cities: among them, two long weeks of actions in Berlin.

Here, we also took back the streets for ourselves through a large, energetic and resolute demonstration, rocking the city and reclaiming public space once more for our uncontrollable, spontaneous and direct actions.

Rigaer94/Kadterschmiede, Köpi, Bethanien, Schwarzer Kanal, Liebig 14, Liebig 34/XB and the Infoladen Daneben, the Linienhöfe and the Brunnenstr.183/Umsonstladen, are some of the autonomous spaces under threat of eviction: these, as all the others, must stay, and this can be achieved only through a movement based on resoluteness, solidarity and active resistance. We want to push forward offensively to keep our freespaces and to fight for the creation of new ones: to show the City that every eviction carries its own price.

We therefore call on everybody to join a demonstration on the 8th of December - almost one year after the "final battle" in Copenhagen - in order to destroy together the winter lethargy of investors, yuppies and cityplanners and to show clearly and unequivocally our rage against the current situation ….
Active solidarity with all threatened autonomous projects – in Berlin as worldwide! Fight and defend autonomous freespaces!
For autonomous spaces and self-organization against dominion and capitalism.
http://onestruggle.blogsport.de/

However the situation of Squat E15 develops the squatting scene in Helsinki and other Finnish cities is now stronger than ever before. We are constantly growing in numbers and a support demo of 300 people (or more) is more than we ever could have mustered half a year ago. We now have recognition for our needs and will not give up until we have this house or an equally good place guaranteed to us. Last but not least the international support we have been getting (Ghent, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Tallinn and Malmφ as far as we know) means a lot to a small but growing scene like ours. The struggle for free spaces continues!

Love and solidarity; Social centre Elimδki - www.valtaus.org

Convergences For Climate Action Summer 2008

With extreme weather, droughts, species extinctions, and melting ice caps becoming more of a reality each day, it is time for us to come together to take direct action against climate change. This summer Rising Tide North America in collaboration with other organizations will host a number of regional Convergences for Climate Action to create a space of collective empowerment to resist the fossil fuel empire and fight for climate justice.

Convergence 2008
The international movement to confront climate chaos is heating up!
Following to the success of this past summer's Convergences for Climate Action in the south east, west coast as well as the Camp for Climate Action in the United Kingdom we are excited to announce that there are plans to organize more convergences next summer. Planning is in the works for the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Germany and Australia and here in North America we're planning convergences on the west coast, in the south east and the north east. Do you want to help with organizing one of these convergences or plan one in your own region? Please email us at contact@risingtidenorthamerica.org or call (202) 657-6772 for more information.

What is a convergence for climate action anyways???
An opportunity to bring different people and organizations together for a week to talk about tangible ways we can confront the root causes of climate change while at the same time envisioning and creating thriving healthy communities that do not rely on the burning of fossil fuels. There will be dozens of workshops, trainings and teach-ins on a plethora of topics as well as coordinated days of action.

Check out the web-page! www.climateconvergence.org
links: http://climatecamp.org.uk | http://risingtide.org.uk | http://risingtidenorthamerica.org

1973 November 17 remembrance, 2007 events in greece

Sources (greek only):
Athens.indymedia.org
http://www.indy.gr

Athens: According to news posted at athens.indymedia.org, diverse attacks happened during the customary marches of remembrance to November 1973 events (the rebellion against the military junta - occupation of the polytechnic school and the armed invasion of the police and the army to the school that caused dozens of fatalities and many arrestees torture). Stones and paints were thrown to the Court Council of the State, bank subsidiaries, ATMs got damaged, and a WIND shop had its window glasses broken. Clashes between protestors and undercover policemen and between protestors and PASOK (ex-ruling party) youth members also happened. (During last year's November 17 march, PASOK youth members had paid some hooligans to beat left wing and anarchist protestors, so as to defend their bloc from any possible threat). More than 20.000 people participated in the marches in Athens, while the state mobilized more than 8.000 policemen.

Thessaloniki: At 4:20 in the morning a group placed gas canister bombs at two police cars, one van, and at the glass windows of an office of the municipal police at Evosmos district. A communiqué appeared at athens.indymedia.org, claiming the action for a "minor group of mostly mentally disordered persons, with a loose perversion to unlawful actions, ruining public and private properties" (This is in fact a term used by V. Floridis, a public prosecutor announcing that the police will be authorized to perform arrests inside the universities, to characterize any non-peaceful demonstrators). The group claims it was an act of solidarity to -empoisoned waiting for trial- Marios Tsourapas and Chrissostomos Kontorevithakis, and states its solidarity to anarchist Christina Tonidou (also in prison waiting for trial), and demands "freedom to all captivated prisoners of democracy"

Later on, during the ordinary flowers for the monument of November 17 in the universities, a group of students called "Autonomous Formations" left a broken CCTV camera the found inside the universities. Their communiqué in greek can be found at athens.indymedia.org they mention that "our time is not for flowers", "but the society people were dreaming of back in 1973 remains still a dream", as well as "against the state's and capital's omnipotence, we stand for radical thought and direct action".

During the march, the Post office on Ethnikis Amynis Str. was broken. Some protestors also attacked the Lefkou Pyrgou Police Department (At Aristotelous Square) with sticks and stones. For more information: www.indy.gr.

Heraklion, Crete: Attacks with stones, bottles and paints were made against bank subsidiaries and security cameras, during the march.

from: http://directactiongr.blogspot.com/
english version: http://directactiongr.blogspot.com/search/label/english

ak57 d.i.y. khommunity khlub
here stood the old address of are base (literally too: it was a basement). the main thing that it's not enough to give our (?) contact to you or others, but everybody have to be contact with everybody (or at least one mail address from every group) and it's only worth to organize this caravan or network when there is the serious need and will from all the people joined it, from enough places of Europe and the world.

so anybody can join me if want to, but there's really nothing to join yet, it would be much better if we would join to each other more and more practically. that's why I don't propose any common action, decentralized in space or in time, but fixing it in any way. it would only be another eventual, that"s why superficial and spectacular, casual event or series of events.

About the squat days of action: there is a strict will from the European Union to evict all the squats even if they are legalized any way. They say the terrorists born in squats, and the European Parliament wants to make it an official directive and if they decide so it won't be just local repressions that are somehow very similar (what a surprise). This won't really make a big difference in practice since there is already a wave of eviction. But it will be much harder to push back and defense our autonomous zones, either temporary or permanently.

The call-out for the squat days of action calls for different actions to make this problem and autonomous spaces, squats more visible. If people will squat places the first days of April 2008, it would be better to have those places afterwards, or at least to want it for a longer term not just as a demonstration.

About the eastern-European region, especially about those cities that never had a squat for long-term: if there will be a EU-directive to evict all the squats, we have to see the next few months as i it would be our last chance. Without forgetting that authorities will come to evict us even if they cannot use the directive as an excuse (yet).

ovis
ovis.bp at gmail.com

- **to look for a building that seems good for that), later on we go to those cities that are close enough and need some similar help.**
- **if in a greater region there is the need for more people for a certain amount of time (maybe around a month or so) it could be a whole year's squatters caravan: the group goes each month to a new city, take a place and those stay there who have chosen the building so that they can and want to keep it afterwards. so the people are rotating, new people are coming, and those who quit from the tour can make solidarity actions in there own space and spread all the information which they have - but not through institutionalized means but from people they already know personally!**

personal motivation for pushing this idea...

- we are from eastern europe, hungary, which is no fertile ground yet for any alternative ideas. though some people try to live their lives in kind of an alternative manner, it's not organized, and such attempts remain isolated. many of them can't stand this isolation any longer and just give up or get "normal" again↓. seeing examples of how it works in other regions can inspire people to take the experience back home, and setting up an organized way for the exchange puts some responsibility on the persons not to keep it for themselves but try to expand it and help their fellows to build up local solidarity networks that are hard to imagine in such a hostile environment without seeing that it can really work or at least having someone who got some experience already in it. and for westerners, it could be an interesting experience to see what can be done when there is no movement background for such activities, when there is no tradition for it and experiments and/or courage are needed to establish something.
- **... or some of them goes abroad as I told before. the guy who were writing this text last year is thinking about moving out from hungary. we were part of the same collective 'til the end of august, and we all ended up not as a collective but as a 'separative' and everyone of us is thinking about either leaving hungary or becoming passivist. this is a problem not because of our loved home or nation but because if everyone who is thinking different from this mainstream capitalist life, leaves to those places where there are already a lot of comrades, then there will be islands without getting informed about the struggle, and there the movement will be killed before its birth.**
- **maybe those from eastern and southern europe already understand this a bit: our first squatting actions were inspired by some travelers western-european experiences, and the whole hungarian movement is a copy-paste process, even the NGOs (pasted by first of all Soros foundation), and all the grass roots movement (okay, some workers movement is not western copy, but russian and so on). the problem is not copying itself, but the blindness of it: don't thinking about the local circumstances for a second, just making the same functions in the squat that we saw somewhere else.**

what we expect

even if people are not interested in making this idea a european-wide effort, we will try to build partnerships with autonomous projects continent- and possibly worldwide. anyone who would be interested in developing a partnership please get in touch.

SHORT INSIGHT INTO THE FORMATION OF AUTONOMOUS BLOCK

**Note: Some reports, photos and video material from the action can be reached on the internet page:* http://n17-n17.blogspot.com/. *This text consists of different sections: description of the Autonomous Block (AB), call for actions, letter of support and short history of Autonomous Tribune (AT).*

Short insight: formation of the autonomous block (AB) around the workers' protests on 17.11.

Autonomous scene

It has been at least a good year since the activist, "autonomous scene" in Slovenia has been united in the important struggle on the local level. Last year, it was the squatting and the formation of the temporary autonomous zone ROG (the former bicycle factory) that produced immense energy and desire for the transformation of vacant space into a lively community of different social relations. Even though later the community Rog faced many difficulties, it still remains one of the most important alternative and public spaces. One of the groups created a space and a group Social Centre Rog that works on alternative education (Nomad University: films, discussions…) and on immigrations issues (specifically connected to the Erased). Apart from these political realities, the autonomous scene in Slovenia has been in demise since the end of ANTINATO and antiwar movement in 2003/04.

This year, with the advent of privatization on all societal levels, with the mounting governmental repression, the Autonomous Tribune, autonomous student movement emerged (see number 4 for the short genealogy of the movement). In the autumn, the autonomous scene started to gather around the issue of the "normalization". Normalization-disciplinary techniques are quite evident in the dominant attitude towards minority groups, in specific case, the homophobic outbursts against lesbian couple in one of the famous clubs in Ljubljana (October). A small protest was organized, where many different political groups showed solidarity. This was a precondition for the formation of Autonomous block.

Workers protests: all trade unions agreed to create a trade-unionist block that will demand for higher wages and criticize neoliberal tendencies. Autonomous block (AB) supported their claims and at the same time wanted to open a space for different questions and demands. Various groups, ranging from Autonomous tribune, social centre Rog, feminists, the revolt of Lesbos, student associations to others debated around issues that want to be presented to the public.

Working-groups started their elaboration on different topics that would finally result in a small paper that could be used as a speech and material for the future activities. Groups were centered around the problematic of student situation, capitalism, repression … Main conclusions were later on formalized in common slogans, demands that were transmitted via flyers, graffiti, call for action (see number 2).

Mobilisation starts. New logistic groups were formed in order to attract young population. It was through flyers, banners, internet guerilla and small symbolic actions that the message for

the formation of autonomous block was spread. Intention of AB was presented in the letter of support (see number 3) and the initiative was greeted with respect and enthusiasm by official trade-unions.

N17

More than 50 thousand people came to flood streets of Ljubljana. There were old, young, workers, students, pensioners who joined the march for the workers' rights. The autonomous block started at the different location as the official event. Symbolically, it started at the Square of the Liberation Front (Anti-FA front in the 2WW). There were not only local groups that joined the AB, but also comrades/compas and groups from Italy, Croatia, Austria and Serbia. The AB presented itself with various materials: from newspapers, flyers to speeches and music that was echoing from the sound-system. The mobile and colored caravan of 500 hundred young people moved and finally joined masses.

The arrival of the autonomous block was emotional – you saw people crying, cheering and shouting "Solidarity". Banners and shouted slogans of the autonomous block radicalized the demands of the workers: "smash capitalism", "In factories and on universities, against the logic of capital", "without resistance there is no existence", "government should resign"… Many small direct actions took place during the march, but stories are yet to be written by others as well.

Trade unions demonstrated that they are one of the only real political forces in Slovenia, what is specific si that they are not subjugated to the government or to political parties, which is quite exceptional regarding the situation in Europe. What remains unknown is the future of the trade-unionist movement and the fate of their demands. If they are not to be heard, in January they call for the general strike.

Apart from that AB showed that alternative politics is possible. Those different political groups can participate and will participate. Next time already I December, for the official introduction of Slovenia into the Schengen regime.

CALL FOR ACTION JOIN THE DEMONSTRATIONS!

On 17th November we will massively occupy the streets of Ljubljana because we think, that today's situation and even more importantly, the path for the future is not set right. Workers' demonstrations for higher wages will be supported by both, elderly and young. All of those fed up with humiliation and exploitation!

Governmental and capitalistic propaganda and their advocates would like us to be convinced that we are living life of dreams. But since we are not stupid, we know, that our situation is not

themselves, about their needs for skills, their facilities (i.e. what can be done there) and their capacities of hosting people (how many, for how long time, when).

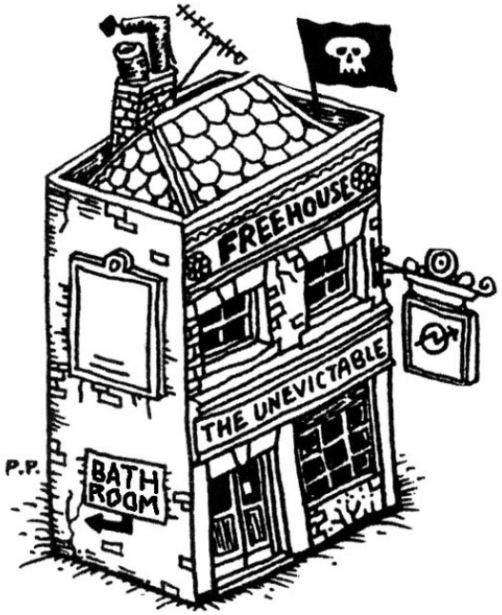
- there will be a question form that the ones who want to be guests should fill. there could be a proposed form which can be changed by each local project, for their own needs (= if you want to ask extra questions or think that some are not important for you as a host to know, just transform it). it can include skills to be offered, description of motivation, expectations, etc.
- no travel costs are covered by any side. try to hitch hike.
- participation in the local activities is required. guests can take their share of the goods of the project they are hosted at (to be agreed, but basically it's about covering their needs: food, shelter, possibly clothing). if someone refuses to participate, can be just sent back (or wherever). in this case, the sending side should be contacted for their information. (sometimes it happens that someone is driven out from one place and starts to spread rumors that help conflicts to arise. it is always better to talk about problems overtly than just leaving them.)
- it's nice to get some feedback (guests to the senders) even during the time of being there. this can be a motivating factor for guests who will return to their home and work on projects inspired by their experiences.
- **very nice, but... this idea builds the trust upon institutional means which mechanisms doesn't really make a difference from the Bolshevik state or for example from the EVS (European Voluntary Service)**
- **according to the description, you must have a sending side, so an already existing group or space, that accept you. this means that you can only join the network if you already joined.**
- **the database of the already existing autonomous places hasn't appeared yet. I've seen parts of it, decentralized notes. the database involves the problem of conspiracy: if we collect all the addresses of the movement and update it regularly, we give a really big help for the secret police! just to put this problem out as a question mark...**
- **the note about the squat-tourism is totally true and relevant: when a group have to deal with a lot of unexpected guest, after a while they don't want to spend time even with those who contact them before and have more motivation to meet than just having a sleeping place for free and drinking beer for free or for less money than in the tourist zone.**

therefore the network that I imagined is based on more personal communication. we don't give away our addresses (just if somebody really want to), just give email contacts and the city it refers to, if we are on the inviter's side. and the network helps both the already existing places in any case of necessary, but the other big goal has to be to help those groups that are the beginning: something like a squatters caravan. for example if there is a city, like Budapest, we are only 5 to 15 people who really want to squat, we already did some squatting actions but without any long lasting results. (the only long lasting result was our anger.) so we look around and see 10 cities that are close enough to Budapest to travel to us in one day by hitchhiking, so invite all the people, individuals and collectives to come to and support with practical resistance, in the house or in front of it. hoping that in a few weeks we can get in a more stable position (for that, the local group have

- **show them practically, what are they joining to, so that you can have more people to resist when there is the threat and you have to struggle to keep it. but**

when you're one step before the beginning, it"s hard to keep even the hard core together: there is no place where you could surely meet, you always have to search for meeting places one or two days before it, there is no stable base physically - in space and time, and in people - and mentally. this makes a lot of people traveling or sometimes even moving out from these cities and countries to those places that already have more tradition in the movement, more squats etc. and the leftover people are angry on these emigrants as long as they are so much fucked up that they also move out from the original starting point. and then comes the next generation... (this can explain a bit our personal motivation...)

means



- autonomous zone projects (squats, social centers, community farms, etc.) assist to people who want to spend a longer time (possibly a few months) at other projects in order to learn about the local struggles, to help with whatever actual project that autonomous zone has in focus at the agreed time, and to get familiar with a way of life the guest is probably not used to.
- each participating project becomes a starting point for people who want to travel to another region to visit another project. participating projects are also encouraged to host people due to their needs and capacities.
- people are only sent to another project when they bear trust from the sending side – still this is no warranty but a kind of recommendation. agreement between the guests and the hosts includes some assistance by the sender project: this means, with this recommendation the hosts can have more trust in the guest, and be better prepared to host someone who is actually interested in the issues they work on. (it often happens that no real connection can be born because the hosts are somehow overwhelmed by random visitors, so it all remains on the level of squat tourism.)
- for all this to be made real, it would be useful to use one or more of the already existing solidarity networks between autonomous spaces (squat.net, conaction.tk, tsolife.org, intersquat france, and more), to avoid multiplying the efforts. it would be also nice to see how these already existing networks could be interconnected and to strive for a better coordination.

and strictly practical...

there is a database to be born about european squats and autonomous zones, it should be accessible under squat.net soon. it will contain information about the a.z.'s

improving and that the prospects for the future are uncertain. So very praised economic growth does not only mean successes of Slovenian economy but also indicates larger levels of exploitation and further social differences.

Demonstrations will unite thousands of workers, men and women. Numerous young - workers, schoolkids, students will also participate, as well as numerous deprivileged workers, who don't have their own labour union's representatives. Not only because of their own status but also to support union's demands. Given the fact, that today's situation is not bright for any of those groups and the fact, that the future perspectives for those groups are very uncertain, we think, that it is a high time for serious and organized incorporation of these subjects into the public debate about current situation and about future.

Student movement Autonomous tribune is therefore motivating formation of Autonomous block at the demonstrations, which will join both young and a bit less young from different stories: students, schoolkids, unemployed, deprivileged and migration workers and many others. In this way, we will be able to clearly express our views, address masses with wider topics and in doing so, will be able to respond to labour unions' call more seriously, support their demands, and enrich the demonstrations with our own content.

We will meet on 17th November at 9:30 a.m. at the bus station!

Letter of support for workers' protests N17

Today situation of workers is not rosy. Although government, capitalistic sounds and their ideological priests would like to convince us otherwise, people are not stupid. People can think and know that their situation is not improving. So very chanted economic growth does not mean solely successes of Slovenian economy. Back side of this process is reduction of worker's rights. Actually we have to step on the side of student or worker in order to understand the whole phenomena: economic growth means above all larger level of exploitation of workers and also students. What does that mean concretely? Wages are reducing, there are more and more of unemployed, gained rights are reducing, really, life in this splendid country beneath the Alps is getting better...

Labour fight is student's fight. It is not only about act of solidarity, more it is about wider perception of social problems, which demands mental effort of each individual. Students will become workers, some of them work even now during their study. To be more educated does not mean assured job. Therefore students have to deal with eminent working issues very early. But workers and students also have many things in common. Not only that they are their parents. Workers can soon realize that trends of privatization of school system are not separated from privatization of other sectors of social state. Therefore the front for maintaining public sector is in formation and new programme basis which can serve alternative organization of society, are being defined through common fight.

Fight for higher wages is of course legitimate union fight. We accompany and welcome this fight and at the same time we announce that we will address the masses with wider themes in the range of autonomous bloc. **Our main 'sting' will 'fly'** on problem of privatization and capitalistic organization of economy as well on state's repression and other forms of

domination. Extra important is of course also difficult situation of students in the light of educational reform, which is being rejected from the very beginning by the Autonomous tribune. Autonomous tribune will work in direction of immobilization of student population and will not only support demonstrations declaratively.

Therefore, see you on 17th November in occupied and motley Ljubljana, where drums will resound and where we will exclaim that we are not so easy up for sale. Not today, not tomorrow, never!

WE DO NOT NEGOTIATE ABOUT RIGHTS!
RIGHTS ARE FIGHT FOR, NOT GIVEN!
Autonomous tribune
Ljubljana, 30.10. 2007

"Autonomous tribune" as an event in the Slovenian student struggle

A story of autonomous student movement begins in late May in 2007. It definitely did not start very ambitiously; quite on the contrary, it started as yet another discussion about the student conditions in Slovenia, why students are so passive, event though the situation is getting much more difficult with every generation. The attendance of this discussion in Metelkova (autonomous centre in Ljubljana) was surprisingly big – more than 50 people attended. What was even more surprising – something happened. The reflections were suddenly translated into actions. It was one of those rare moments when words pass from the symbolic to the real dimension: someone suggested "Are we going to squat the Faculty of arts next week?" - and all students willingly embraced this suggestion. It was a political promise, promise of what was to become alternative politics to the governmental program of privatization of the Slovenian high education system (introduction of tuition fees, privileged position of private schools, introduction of governmental control of professors etc.).

The day of the occupation of the Faculty of Arts came and with it the first general and constitutive meeting of Autonomous Tribune (AT). First statement was written (see appendix), couple of hundreds students attended the meeting. The main target of critique was the general process of privatization and exclusive democratic practices. However, Autonomous Tribune was successful in radicalizing "student" demands that depart from the narrow student agenda that just wants to preserve actual rights... so, even the first statement already addressed antimilitaristic issues and the social circumstances in general. AT stressed the fact that all across Europe students are fighting for the same cause, against neo-liberal agenda and privatization of all public sectors etc.

After this meeting – the movement arose – it was like a snowball effect. It gained quite a big recognition in media and started spreading to other faculties, where similar meetings and autonomous groups were formed. Autonomous tribune started to hold regular meetings and what is even more important, is a fact that it gained autonomous spaces within faculties. Its form of organization is directly democratic, horizontal and inclusive. It is autonomous of all other student organization and political parties (the intention to influence/discipline AT was not negligible).

It started to intervene into public spaces, with smaller (graffiti etc) direct actions and bigger actions: street theater, performances on the convention of right-wing civil society initiatives (see also http://avtonomnatribuna.blogspot.com/). In the beginning it was met with strong repressive measures from police that started to criminalize its actors and its actions. One of the official reports stated that participants of the actions carried "anti-governmental" slogans and would be persecuted due to this fact. The discursive articulation reminded on older Stalinist and also contemporary anti-terrorist measures that we are facing today.

Even the official student organization started radicalizing itself and organizing smaller actions against the official governmental agenda. Student movement was successful in postponing the privatization agenda – the main actor, the Minister of Higher Education was deposed due to his "incompetence", but largely this can be attributed to the demand of the movement who had already deposed him in one of the first actions in front of the Slovene Government.

Even though it seems that everything is normal today, a new Minister will of course just carry on with business as usual. That means no rest for AT activists! After a long summer, a period of exams, one has to admit that AT has lost its momentum. However, new alternative agenda is being set: AT is at the moment organizing a public forum with trade-unionist groups against privatization. In the middle of November (17.11.) there will be a mass demonstration against neoliberal tendencies and student movement will take part in this initiative.

Vision of a practical solidarity network between squats and other autonomous zones
And a critic of this one-year-old text

goals

- giving personal motivation and inspiration to people to participate in autonomous space activities, by making them more familiar and kind of attached to one (or more) such project(s). this includes special facilities and ways of life to be experienced at a special place and of course the cultural context (especially important in relation of eastern & western europe).
- sharing skills and mutual learning by both guests and hosts.
- as the new wave of repression hits the european squatting scene, it becomes more and more important to know each other's struggles, get familiar with the people and spaces that could be attacked by the state or the owners.
- **this is all true, but it's necessary to add some more: the network of autonomous spaces is important not just because the possible attacks of the authorities (political, economical, whatever else), but because these places can become more and more autonomous only if they don't cut themselves off from each other, but cooperate, share information, skills, and everything else that must be shared, without too much transportation (for economical and ecological reasons).**
- **another goal is that this network, based on solidarity, mustn't be a closed circle, but open to new initiations, new groups, and help them to establish their own local autonomous zones, no matter if it's for living, for a local community or for the big, anonymous public or more of these, no matter if they are temporary, permanently, or... permanently temporary :) autonomous.**
- **this last thing is more important than one would think: if you already have an autonomous space, you have more possibility to make people join you, you can**